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**November 18, 2011 Press Release** | Contact: Jen Gilbreath (202) 225-6416

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**WASHINGTON, DC--**U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) bucked his party leadership, voting for Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) that forces fiscal discipline upon Congress. DeFazio had been working with Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) for several months to boost support for the BBA. The bill failed in the House 261-165. The bill required a two-thirds majority to pass. DeFazio was one of only 25 Democrats to vote for the BBA.

H.J.Res.2 was virtually identical to a BBA that passed the House of Representatives in 1995. Over 70 Democrats voted for the 1995 measure including two of the top three Democrats in current leadership.

DeFazio issued the following statement after the vote:

“On Wednesday of this week, the accumulated debt of the U.S. passed \$15 trillion. That’s a massive sum of debt and a horrible legacy to leave our kids and grandkids. Sometime in the near future I expect our credit card will be denied. If we want to save Social Security and Medicare and if we want to make the necessary investments that will put people back to work, we must get our debt and deficit under control.

“That’s why today I was a lead Democratic sponsor of a Balanced Budget Amendment in the United States House of Representatives. This BBA would have forced Congress, on both sides of the aisle, to sit down and meaningfully deal with the financial problems in this country. We need long term solutions that are balanced and include both revenue increases and smart spending cuts.

“Sadly, the amendment failed. I won’t give up my efforts to rein in this reckless accumulation of debt in Washington, D.C.”

**To Access the Video:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72aw08\\_y7m0&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72aw08_y7m0&feature=channel_video_title)

**To Access the Radio Actuality:** [11.18.11 DeFazio Bucks Party, Supports Balanced Budget Amendment](#)

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